



# The Go-Back Club

Newsbooklet of the Simple-Living Brigade: #29, March 2016

*These are OUR stories: [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)*

Our members live in 20 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces, Korea and Nigeria.



*Nathan Sooy and Betsy Conover hold signs outside of the Cumberland County Courthouse in support of several Upper Frankford Township residents who are fighting eminent domain proceedings initiated by Sunoco Pipeline. (Photo: Steve Marroni/PennLive.com)*

## Sunoco Pipeline Eminent Domain Decisions

Can Cumberland County farmland be taken for a pipeline? Hearing to continue February 29th.

By Steve Marroni  
[pennlive.com](http://pennlive.com) via [Fahertylawfirm.com](http://Fahertylawfirm.com)

It was difficult to tell who was getting more honks from passing cars—the handful of protesters or the man in a Statue of Liberty costume advertising a tax-preparation service.

But cars were honking and what was clear from the signs the protesters carried was

that they did not want Sunoco Pipeline's proposed Mariner East II running through Cumberland County.

And while there were a few protesters outside of the Cumberland County Courthouse Monday morning, about 30 more people filled a courtroom, coming out in support of three Upper Frankford Township property owners who fear having a liquid natural gas pipeline running under their land.

It will devalue their properties, cutting them by about 40 percent, property owner Rolfe Blume said. Property Owners Oppose Pipeline's Upper Frankford Township resident Rolfe Blume addresses why he opposes Sunoco Pipeline's plans to run a natural gas pipeline through his property.

And it could be dangerous, too, neighbor John Perry added, saying there is a 1,000-foot "hazard zone" around the proposed line that could affect his land and the people who live nearby should there be an accident.

After the first day of a hearing in Cumberland County Court, the main question at issue remains unanswered. Does Sunoco Pipeline have the authority to take a portion of land from three Cumberland County property owners?

Judge M. L. "Skip" Ebert heard from the company and from the property owners who filed objections with court over Sunoco Pipeline's declaration of taking.

Sunoco officials indicate they have that authority, saying they are a public utility

**Eminent Domain** *continued on page 12*

# What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

## A Simple-Living Brigade

**Our Motto:** *Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.*

**Founder/Editor:** Iona Conner

**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Contributors:** Sandy Chilcote, Mare Cromwell, Alanna Hartzok, Erik Olaf

**Established:** September 2013

**Web site:** [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)

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**Contact:** The Go-Back Club, c/o Iona Conner, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255; 814-259-3680; [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net).

### What is The Go-Back Club about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual im-

pacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

### Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) to see what we do.

### What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

### We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (climate scientist and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), to John and Iona Conner about climate tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center  
"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

*Please send us your stories and photos. We rely on our members' contributions.*

## Fair Use Law: <http://copyright.gov/fair-use/>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship and research—as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

**(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes:** Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit education and noncommercial uses are fair and all commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, "transformative" uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substi-

tute for the original use of the work.

**(2) Nature of the copyrighted work:** This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. Thus, using a more creative or imaginative work (such as a novel, movie or song) is less likely to support a claim of a fair use than using a factual work (such as a technical article or news item). In addition, use of an unpublished work is less likely to be considered fair.

**(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole:** Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. That said, some courts have found use of an entire work to be fair under certain circumstances. And in other contexts, using even a small amount of a copyrighted work was determined not to be fair because the selection was an important part—or the "heart"—of the work.

**(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work:** Here, courts review whether, and to

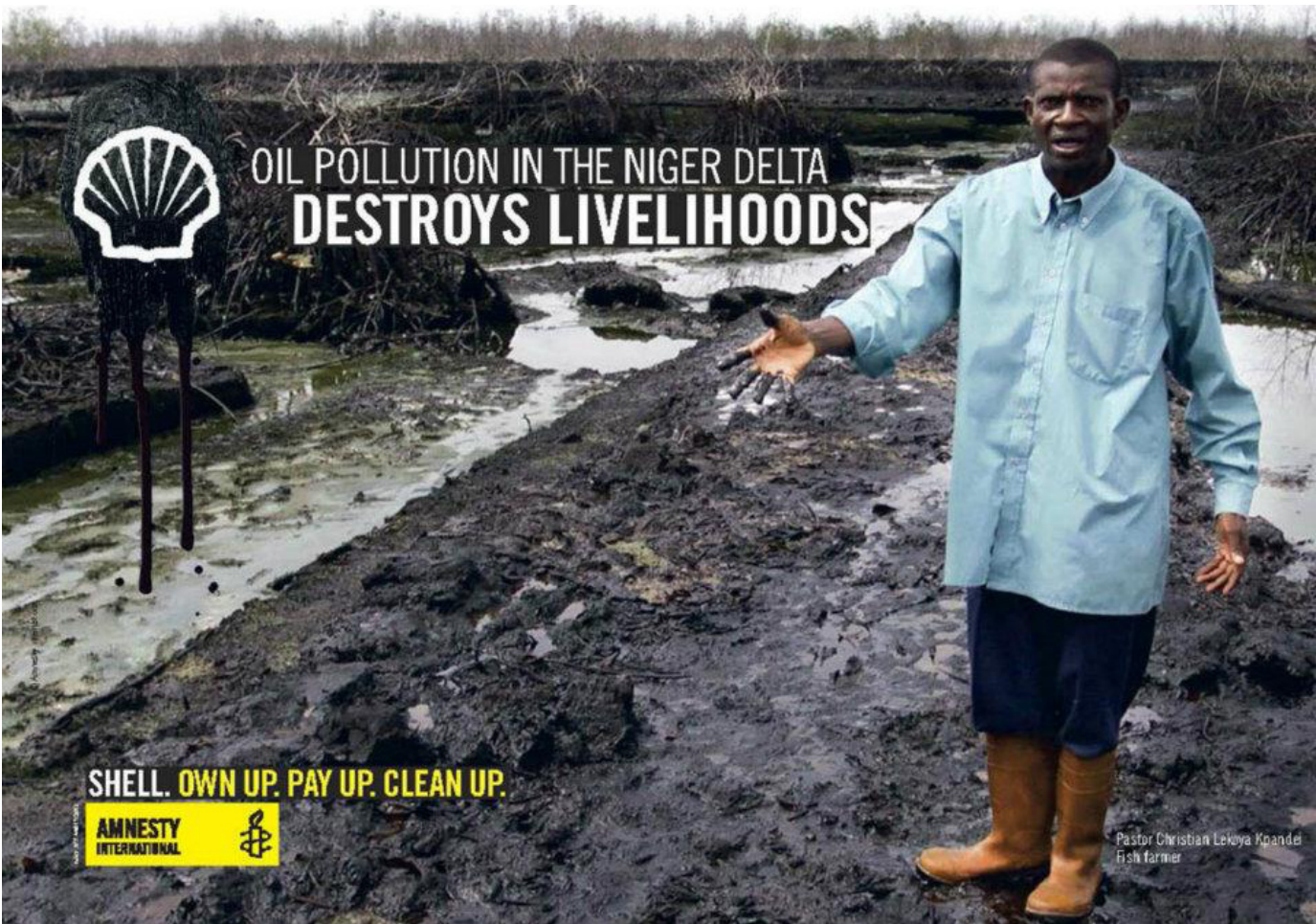
what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread.

In addition to the above, other factors may also be considered by a court in weighing a fair use question, depending upon the circumstances. Courts evaluate fair use claims on a case-by-case basis and the outcome of any given case depends on a fact-specific inquiry. This means that there is no formula to ensure that a predetermined percentage or amount of a work—or specific number of words, lines, pages, copies—may be used without permission.

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3).



Fair Use Logo



This is the area our Milk Basket/Go-Back Club partnership will be working in. See past issues for more information at [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org).

Oil spills are a common event in Nigeria. Half of all spills occur due to pipeline and tanker accidents (50%), other causes include sabotage (28%) and oil production operations (21%), with 1% of the spills being accounted for by inadequate or non-functional production equipment. Corrosion of pipelines and tankers [causes] the rupturing or leaking of old production infrastructures that often do not receive inspection and maintenance. (Caption: Wikipedia; Photo courtesy Amnesty International)

## Dutch Court: Shell Can Be Liable for Nigeria Spills

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

Ruling sets precedent for legal action against Dutch-based companies across the world.

Source: Agencies

Aljazeera.com: December 16, 2015 (<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/12/dutch-court-shell-liable-nigeria-spills-151218120516428.html>)

Four Nigerian farmers will have the chance to sue Shell (the multinational oil and gas company) in the Netherlands for pollution they blame on leaking pipelines, a Dutch appeals court has ruled.

The farmers, backed by the Dutch branch of environmental group Friends of the Earth, first filed the case in 2008 against Shell in the Netherlands, wanting the Anglo-Dutch company to clean up devastating oil spills

in four heavily polluted villages in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta.

The case also asked Shell to prevent further spills and to pay compensation.

Shell had argued that it had no liability in the case and that Dutch courts did not have jurisdiction.

"It cannot be established in advance that the parent company is not liable for possible negligence of the Nigerian operating company," The Hague Appeals Court said in a statement.

Shell said it would comment after studying the decision. Activists said Friday's ruling sets a landmark legal precedent that clears the way for Netherlands-based companies to be sued for alleged negligence of their subsidiaries elsewhere in the world.

"There is now jurisprudence that means victims of human rights violations or pollution can sue Dutch multinationals in the Netherlands," said Geert Ritsema of the Dutch arm of Friends of the Earth.

In 2013, judges rejected most of the

case, saying pipeline leaks were caused by saboteurs, not Shell negligence.

The decision means the case can proceed, most likely next year.

In one case, the judges ordered a subsidiary—Shell Nigeria—to compensate a farmer for breach of duty of care by making it too easy for saboteurs to open an oil well head that leaked onto his land.

In another victory for the plaintiffs, the court also ordered Shell to give the farmers and environmental activists supporting their case access to internal documents that could shed more light on the case.

Shell's local subsidiary is the top foreign oil producer in the Niger Delta, an oil-rich region of mangroves and swamps about the size of Portugal. Its production forms the backbone of crude production in Nigeria.

Shell, which discovered and started tapping the country's oil reserves in the late 1950s, has been heavily criticized by activists and local communities over oil spills and close ties to government security forces.



*"Imagine yourself in his shoes." That sentence and photo are on the Milk Basket's facebook page.*

## Update on GBC-Milk Basket Partnership

By Iona

Today (February 18) Ekwe Chiwundu Charles is selling his laptop to help pay the huge bribe that he needs to hand over in order to get his visa to come here. He has told me many times how corrupt his country is but this is worse than I had imagined.

Even though Ekwe is employed in a miserable job, he only earns \$70 a month and they often have to tangle with the company just to be paid. At the moment, he is owed two months back wages. It's really tough over there.

Ekwe may even need to sell his phone in order to get to the United States so that we can meet each other and work together for a week or two learning more about how to make our dreams come true of helping the starving and malnourished children in the Niger Delta (see article on page 3). This is the area where he spent a year after graduating from college with his Bachelors degree in Food Science and Technology. That experience made a lasting impression on his heart and he started the Milk Basket in 2012.

Ekwe received one generous donation recently and bought 45 treated mosquito nets to deliver to the Niger Delta children as part of the nationwide Roll Back Malaria campaign. They have arrived at his home in Owerri but he doesn't have enough money to travel to that area to deliver them yet.

For those of you who haven't see Ekwe's previous articles, his dream is to provide canned milk and clean drinking water to these children. As time goes by, he also hopes to build libraries so that the young people (as well as adults) can be educated and rise out of poverty.

We have published several articles by Ekwe and about a year ago he invited us to partner with him to help achieve his dream. Please go to [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) to read other articles about our partnership.

Here are three fundraising sites Ekwe created for donations:

[https://www.facebook.com/Milk-Basket-1634451933482330/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel&\\_\\_mref=message\\_bubble](https://www.facebook.com/Milk-Basket-1634451933482330/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel&__mref=message_bubble)

<https://angel.co/milk-basket>

<https://www.fundraise.com/ekwe-charles/milk-basket>

I also opened a local bank account for this project so, if you prefer, you may make a check payable to "Milk Basket" and mail it to me at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

Thanks so much for helping this partnership flourish.

### Our Mission

#### Saving Lives

Clean Drinking Water  
Adequate Nutrition  
Roll Back Malaria

#### Building Futures

Education  
Violence Prevention

# **Busted: Federal Judge Sentences Lumber Liquidators to Probation, \$13 M in Fines for Smuggling Timber**

By Jesse Prentice-Dunn  
Sierraclub.org: February 1, 2016

Earlier today in Norfolk, Virginia, U.S. District Judge Raymond Jackson sentenced Lumber Liquidators to five years of probation and more than \$13 million in penalties for smuggling illegal wood products into the United States. This agreement, reached by the company and federal prosecutors, represents the largest fine ever issued under the Lacey Act, a landmark environmental law banning the import of illegally sourced timber.

Today's sentence marks the end of a multi-year investigation in which the Department of Justice found that Lumber Liquidators imported products made of wood harvested illegally in Russia, including timber cut from Siberian tiger habitat.

For years, Lumber Liquidators relied on shoddy reporting to pass off its illegal products. In one instance the company stated a shipment of Mongolian oak flooring was harvested in Germany, even though Mongolian oak doesn't even grow in that country. In another, the company declared that 79 shipments of oak flooring, worth nearly \$8 million, were all logged from the same permitted area in Russia. Unfortunately for the company, the amount of wood in those shipments was 800 percent of the allowed harvest under that permit.

Going forward, Lumber Liquidators must pay more than \$13 million in fines and establish an environmental compliance plan in which all of its products must be traced back to the source of harvesting. Further, over its five-year probation, the company will be subject to independent audits of its sourcing practices. Although Lumber Liquidators can afford more than \$10 million in fines, the real cost will come when they can no longer rely on cheap, illegal wood to reduce prices.

By holding Lumber Liquidators accountable for smuggling illegal timber, the United States is showing that it is serious about enforcing the Lacey Act and fighting illegal logging. Indeed, this case should serve as a warning to other companies that they must ensure their products are sourced legally, instead of profiting from cheap, illegal timber. Strong environmental laws only work if



*Lumber Liquidators imported products made of wood harvested illegally in Russia, including timber cut from Siberian tiger habitat. (Photos: iStock)*

they are enforced — please take a minute to thank the Obama administration for enforcing the Lacey Act at [http://sierra.force.com/actions/National?actionId=AR0021703&id=70131000001M4lhAAC&\\_ga=1.76957335.362814315.1455393154](http://sierra.force.com/actions/National?actionId=AR0021703&id=70131000001M4lhAAC&_ga=1.76957335.362814315.1455393154).

**This is what your message will say:** Lumber Liquidators just plead guilty to importing flooring made of wood illegally harvested in Russia, a violation of the Lacey Act. This is the first time a major U.S. company has been found guilty of a felony for smuggling illegal wood into the United States, but it shouldn't be the last.

An alarming new *Al Jazeera* documentary exposes how illegal loggers are destroying the Amazon rainforest and threatening the species that call it home.

The documentary shows how that timber has made its way to the United States.



Without decisive government action, those profiteering off the destruction of the Amazon rainforest won't be punished and timber taken illegally from the Amazon rainforest could accidentally wind up in your home.

The Lacey Act is designed to combat illegal logging at home and abroad, making it a crime to import illegally-harvested wood.

Tell your representative and key U.S. decision makers to fully enforce the Lacey Act and hold illegal loggers accountable!

*Jesse Prentice-Dunn is a senior representative for the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program.*

# Butterfly

By Erik Olaf  
(written after he read Julia Butterfly Hill's book,  
*The Legacy of Luna*)

Hey Butterfly,  
    High in a Redwood tree  
Hey Butterfly,  
    You have inspired me

You walked among the Redwoods,  
    Feeling their majesty  
You felt at one with the world,  
    Falling to your knees.

You saw an ugly clearcut,  
    Nothing green did grow  
You saw a lot of mudslides  
    many ruined homes.

Out among the Redwoods  
    Luna stood so high  
You made a vow to save her  
    Then you made the climb.

Hey Butterfly  
    High in a Redwood tree  
Two years went by  
    But you refused to leave.

They cut trees around you  
    Trying to scare you down  
They shined lights up at you  
    Blowing their horns so loud.

They brought in men to guard you  
    Trying to starve you down  
But your friends they came through  
    Somehow they got around.

Hey Butterfly,  
    Always the optimist  
They made you cry  
    Still you did persist.

Through the cold, cold winters  
    Rain and wind and snow  
You made calls, wrote letters  
    Letting people know.

The company had spoken to you  
    Reeling off corporate lines  
Finally though, you got through  
    Finding a human side.

Luna at last was saved  
    And some land around  
You had achieved your aim.  
    Finally you came down.

Hey Butterfly  
    High in a Redwood tree  
Hey Butterfly  
    You have inspired me.



Erik Olaf did door-to-door canvassing for Greenpeace in Portland in the Summer of 1990, and in Boston in the Summer of 1991. He plays the guitar and sings and has performed solo and in several bands. He grew up in Portland, Oregon and formed a love of the wilderness at an early age through hiking trips with his family and with the Boy Scouts and summer camps.

Julia Lorraine Hill (known as Julia "Butterfly" Hill, born February 18, 1974) is an American environmental activist and tax redirection advocate. She is best known for having lived in a 180-foot (55 m)-tall, roughly 1,500-year-old California Redwood tree (age based on first-hand ring count of a slightly smaller neighboring ancient redwood that had been cut down) for 738 days between December 10, 1997 and December 18, 1999. Hill lived in the tree, affectionately known as "Luna", to prevent Pacific Lumber Company loggers from cutting it down. She is the author of the book *The Legacy of Luna: The Story of a Tree, a Woman and the Struggle to Save the Redwoods* and co-author of *One Makes the Difference*. She is a vegan. (Wikipedia)

# France Declares All New Rooftops Must Be Topped With Plants or Solar Panels

CSGlobe.com

Seen on Facebook: January 16, 2016

A new law recently passed in France mandates that all new buildings that are built in commercial zones in France must be partially covered in either plants or solar panels.

Green roofs, as they are called, have an isolating effect which helps to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat a building during the winter or cool it in the summer. They are capable of retaining rainwater and reducing problems with runoff and also offer birds a place to call home in the urban jungle.

French environmental activists originally wanted to pass a law that would make the green roofs cover the entire surface of all new roofs. However, partially-covered roofs make for a great start and are still a huge step in the right direction.

Some say the law that was passed is actually better, as it gives business owners a chance to install solar panels to help provide the buildings with renewable energy, thereby leaving even less of a footprint.

Green roofs are already very popular in Germany and Australia, as well as Canada's city of Toronto! This by-law was adopted in 2009, by the city of Toronto which mandated green roofs on all new industrial and residential buildings.



## Benefits of Green Roofs

There are so many benefits to green roofs. Here are just a few:

- Adding natural beauty and major aesthetic improvement to buildings, which in turn increases the investment opportunity.

- Helping contribute to landfill diversion by prolonging the life of waterproofing membranes, using recycled materials, and prolonging the service of heating, ventilation and HVAC systems through decreased use.

- Green roofs assist with storm water management because water is stored by the substrate, then taken up by plants and thus returned to the atmosphere through transpiration and evaporation.

- They retain rainwater and moderate the temperature of the water and act as natural filters for the water that does run off. They delay the time at which runoff occurs, which results in decreased stress on sewer systems during peak periods.

- The plants on green roofs do a great job of capturing airborne pollutants and other atmospheric deposition. They can also filter noxious gasses.

- They open up new areas for community gardens, commercial and recreational space in busy cities where this space is generally quite limited.

France is definitely on the right track but it should be a mandate that all new buildings being built in North America and even worldwide, adopt this amazing idea to reap all of the potential benefits.



## Here Comes the Sun

### France to Pave 621 Miles of Roads with Solar Panels

Submitted by **Brendan Wissinger**  
Pennsylvania

By Derek Markham, *excerpt*  
Treehugger.com: January 29, 2016

Over the next five years, France will install some 621 miles (1,000 km) of solar roadway using Colas' Wattway solar pavement.

Solar freakin' roadways! No, this is not the crowdfunded solar road project that blew up the Internet a few years ago, but is a collaboration between Colas, a transport infrastruc-



ture company, and INES (France's National Institute for Solar Energy), and sanctioned by France's Agency of Environment and Energy Management, which promises to bring solar power to hundreds of miles of roads in the country over the next five years.

One major difference between this solar freakin' roadway and that other solar freakin' roadway is that the new Wattway system doesn't replace the road itself or require removal of road surfaces, but instead is designed to be glued onto the top of existing pavement.

The Wattway system is also built in layers of materials "that ensure resistance and tire grip" and is just 1/4" thick, which is radically different from that other design that uses thick glass panels (and which is also claimed to include LED lights and 'smart' technology, which increases the complexity and cost of the moose-friendly solar tiles)... .

# Lawsuit Prompts Offshore Fracking Moratorium off California Coast

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Kristen Monsell

Center for Biological Diversity: January 29, 2016

LOS ANGELES, California—The federal government must stop approving offshore fracking from oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel under a legal settlement filed today in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. The agreement resolves a Center for Biological Diversity lawsuit that challenged the U.S. Department of the Interior's practice of rubber-stamping fracking off California's coast without engaging the public or analyzing fracking's threats to ocean ecosystems, coastal communities and marine life, including sea otters, fish, sea turtles and whales.

"This halt to offshore fracking is a huge victory for California's coastal environment," said Kristen Monsell, a Center attorney. "Offshore fracking is a dirty and dangerous practice that has absolutely no place in our ocean. The federal government certainly has no right to give the oil industry free rein to frack offshore at will."

Oil companies have fracked at least 200 wells in state and federal waters off Long Beach, Seal Beach, Huntington Beach and in the wildlife-rich Santa Barbara Channel. Offshore fracking blasts vast volumes of water mixed with toxic chemicals beneath the seafloor, at pressures high enough to fracture rocks.

The oil industry has federal permission to dump more than nine billion gallons of wastewater, including chemical-laden fracking fluid, into the ocean off California's coast every year.

Today's agreement requires the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to analyze the environmental dangers of offshore fracking and acidization under the National Environmental Policy Act. The settlement also prohibits federal officials from authorizing these inherently dangerous practices in federal waters until that analysis is concluded.

The settlement requires a "programmatic environmental assessment" to be completed by May 28, 2016. It also requires the public to be given at least 30 days to review and comment on the draft assessment.

Today's settlement follows the city of Long



*Oil rigs off the California coast. At least 10 fracking chemicals routinely used in offshore fracking in California could kill or harm a broad variety of marine species, including sea otters and fish, Center for Biological Diversity scientists have found. A legal settlement halting offshore fracking in the Santa Barbara Channel could affect oversight of all federally permitted offshore fracking. (Photo: Drew Bird Photography, 2015©)*

Beach's decision last month not to move forward with 13 planned offshore fracks, which would have been the first offshore fracks in state waters since 2013.

At least 10 fracking chemicals routinely used in offshore fracking in California could kill or harm a broad variety of marine species, including sea otters and fish, Center scientists have found.

"Every offshore frack puts coastal communities and marine wildlife at risk from dangerous chemicals or another devastating oil spill," Monsell said. "Once federal officials take a hard look at the dangers, they'll have to conclude that offshore fracking is far too big of a gamble with our oceans' life-support systems. They'll have to stop authorizing it for good."

Oil companies are also using offshore

fracking in the Gulf of Mexico, including in the vicinity of the disastrous Deepwater Horizon spill. Fracking in the Gulf of Mexico has also never had meaningful environmental review. **Today's agreement could affect oversight of all federally permitted offshore fracking.** [bold added]

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 990,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Source: [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2016/fracking-01-29-2016.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2016/fracking-01-29-2016.html).



# Ocean Conservancy Hard at Work: We Can help.



## New protections for the Aleutian Islands!

As the New Year begins, Ocean Conservancy celebrates increased protections for the Aleutian Islands. New buffer zones will keep ships at least 50 nautical miles from hazardous Aleutian shorelines—a precaution that will reduce the risk of catastrophic accidents in this special region.

The Coast Guard played a key role in securing these common-sense protective measures.

You may know the Aleutian Islands and surrounding waters from television shows like “Deadliest Catch.” But did you know that this region provides globally-important habitat for fish, birds and marine mammals? Species ranging from king crabs to tufted puffins to Steller sea lions can be found in the Aleutians.

Thanks to leadership from the Coast Guard, the new 50-mile buffer zones—called “Areas to be Avoided”—were adopted by the International Maritime Organization last year and went into effect on January 1.

Please take action (mentioned below) to thank the U.S. Coast Guard for its leadership in the Aleutians and encourage the agency to adopt similar common-sense solutions as it considers traffic safety measures farther north in the northern Bering Sea and Bering Strait.

### Email received 1/22/16

I wanted to check in—did you see this email from Whit? It’s always so exciting when we can share ocean victories. The new buffer zones in the ecologically-rich Aleutian Islands are a huge win for the seabirds, marine mammals and fish that call the region home.

Will you take a minute to thank the U.S. Coast Guard for its leadership in protecting the Aleutian shoreline? Just go to <https://secure.oceanconservancy.org/site/Advocacy?page=UserActionInactive&id=1087>. Thank you.

It’s a time to celebrate, but also a time to look forward—help us keep up the momentum and encourage the Coast Guard to adopt similar management solutions in the northern Bering Sea and Bering Strait.

For the ocean,  
Andrew Hartsig  
Director, Arctic Program  
Ocean Conservancy

## Ocean creatures need us.

Email received January 30, 2016 from Andrew Hartsig  
Director, Arctic Program, Ocean Conservancy

One of the most spectacular migrations in the world happens in Alaska’s Bering Strait. I live here and wish you could see the thousands of walrus, spotted seals and bearded seals making their way through the nutrient-rich waters of the Bering Strait. Even polar bears use the Bering Strait as an important feeding area in the winter, spring and early summer. And the Bering Strait is home to incredible concentrations of marine birds: an astonishing 12 million seabirds nest and forage in the region.

Get to know some of the Bering Strait’s distinctive residents and learn why they need our help now more than ever before.



**Belugas:** Known for their distinctive white color, belugas are incredibly well adapted to the Bering Strait environment. Their five-inch-thick layer of blubber and dorsal ridge help them navigate through the harsh, icy waters. Unlike other whales, belugas can move their heads up, down and side-to-side, and are

even capable of making different facial expressions! Increased vessel traffic and habitat disruption threaten belugas—they’ve been shown to be incredibly skittish around approaching ships.



**Ringed seals:** Named for the light-colored rings on their backs, ringed seals rely on the Bering Strait ice in the spring, summer and fall to hide from predators, mate and raise their young. Adults will take refuge in snow dens to keep warm while resting and giving birth. As most of the ringed seals’ life cycle is heavily dependent on ice, they are particularly susceptible to decreasing ice cover



**Crested auklets:** These peculiar-looking birds, distinguished by a sweeping crest that hangs over their face, are at sea for the majority of the year and only come on land

### Creatures

*continued on page 20*

# *Oil Sheen on Potomac River Near D.C. Under Investigation*

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Whitney Pipkin, *excerpt*  
*Bay Journal*: February 5, 2016

Oily liquid continued to ooze Sunday into a waterfowl pond along the Potomac River as investigators searched for a source in a Washington, D.C. area storm drain.

While the rainbow-colored sheen seen late last week along an eight-mile stretch of the river has dissipated, investigators Sunday morning spotted more oil coming from an outfall emptying into Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary, according to Lt. David Ruhlig, U.S. Coast Guard operations section chief overseeing response to the incident.

Booms were strung across the outfall to capture the oil, augmenting containment measures put in Roaches Run Friday. “This allowed us to keep any further sheen from entering the Potomac from Roaches Run and our hope is that it will help us to rule out other avenues of entry,” Ruhlig said in a statement released Sunday afternoon.

The Coast Guard is coordinating the efforts of federal, state and local authorities dealing with the contamination. Another 11 geese appear to have been affected by the oily sheen, in addition to 19 oiled geese and a duck recovered since Friday, according to the statement. A nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation service, Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research of Newark, DE, is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to capture the geese ...

Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks said he isn't convinced that the sheen is just from storm-water runoff washing oil off streets and parking lots. He noted there had been an oil spill last week at a Dominion Virginia Power facility nearby. Dominion spokesman



*Contractors work to contain and mop up oily substance coating a Potomac River tributary in Arlington, Virginia. (Photo by Dave Harp)*

Rob Richardson confirmed that 13,000 gallons of mineral oil spilled January 24th from a transformer at a power substation in Crystal City, not far from Roaches Run. But he said “there’s no evidence” that the mineral oil spill is related to the sheen in the Potomac ...

Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary, a tidal pond sandwiched between two thoroughfares in Arlington, drains under George Washington Memorial Parkway and ultimately into the Potomac. Flanked

by parkland, it's a popular place to spot waterfowl in winter and to picnic in warmer weather.

The Coast Guard is working with Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality and Arlington County to try tracing the discharge up through the storm drain network.

**Source:** [http://www.bayjournal.com/article/oil\\_sheen\\_on\\_potomac\\_near\\_dc\\_under\\_investigation](http://www.bayjournal.com/article/oil_sheen_on_potomac_near_dc_under_investigation)

Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after winter.

*Rachel Carson: Marine Biologist, Author*

## Report Issues Dire Carbon Warning: Keep It in the Ground—or Else

Submitted by Bill Boteler  
Washington, D.C.

Report examines carbon risk of fossil fuel deposits that could push world past agreed-upon 2°C climate threshold.

By Nadia Prupis, *excerpt*  
Common Dreams: January 25, 2016

A new report, *Keep it in the Ground*, issues an urgent call to stand up to powerful fossil fuel interests and prevent environmental catastrophe.

From coal mines to oil reserves, a new report released Monday by a group of leading environmental organizations outlines the world's biggest carbon threats in an era of runaway warming—and the ongoing efforts to keep those fossil fuels in the ground.

The report, compiled by Greenpeace, Sierra Club and 350.org, examines the carbon risk of deposits throughout the globe

that, if developed, would push the world past the agreed-upon 2°C climate threshold.

Released just months after world leaders signed a climate pact at the COP21 negotiations in Paris—and just days after scientists declared 2015 the “hottest year on record”—the report issues an urgent call to stand up to powerful fossil fuel interests and prevent environmental catastrophe.

“With the historic climate accord set in Paris last year, nearly 200 nations from around the world set an expiration date for fossil fuels,” said Lena Moffitt, director of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign. “Now we must rise to the occasion by transitioning to 100 percent clean and renewable energy sources and leave dirty fuels where they belong—in the ground.”

In order to curb escalating greenhouse gas emissions and fend off their disastrous consequences, the “overwhelming majority of the large coal reserves in China, Russia and the United States, as well as more than 260 billion barrels of oil reserves and 60 percent of gas reserves in the Middle East, must all remain unused,” the researchers write in the report, titled *Keep it in the*

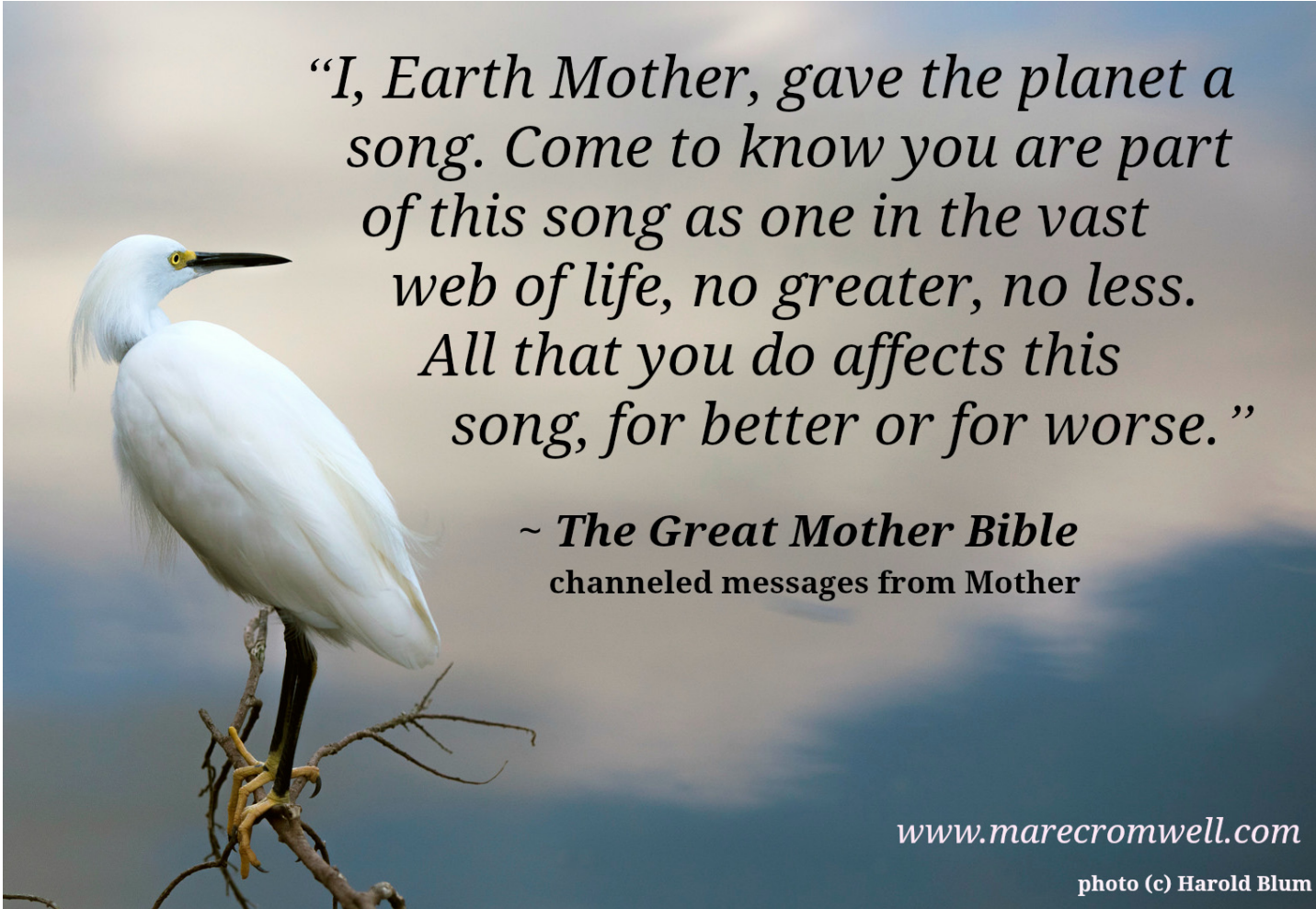
*Ground* (pdf). Arctic resources should also “be off-limits to development,” they say.

Quoting Carbon Tracker, a nonprofit financial think tank, the researchers write that the global carbon budget is rapidly reaching its limit. To prevent climate catastrophe, the world can only afford to release a maximum of approximately 565 gigatons (Gt) of CO<sub>2</sub> total until 2050. “To limit warming to 1.5°C or below—an ambitious goal stated in the Paris Agreement—emissions would need to be limited in accordance with an even stricter budget,” they found.

“If the world’s proven reserves are developed before 2050, we will miss even the high-end estimated budget for a 50 percent chance of limiting warming to 2°C—three times over,” the authors continue.

However, with such dire circumstances already underway, climate activism has taken on a new momentum, the authors state...

You can read the report at [V= https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/blog/Keep%20It%20in%20the%20Ground%20-%20January%202016.pdf](https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/blog/Keep%20It%20in%20the%20Ground%20-%20January%202016.pdf)



*“I, Earth Mother, gave the planet a song. Come to know you are part of this song as one in the vast web of life, no greater, no less. All that you do affects this song, for better or for worse.”*

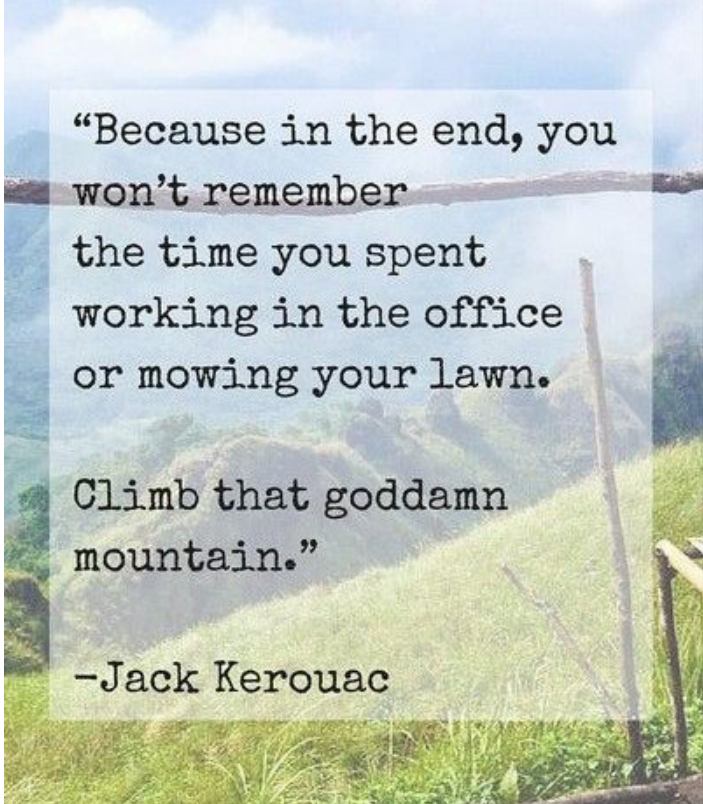
*~ The Great Mother Bible  
channeled messages from Mother*

[www.marecromwell.com](http://www.marecromwell.com)

photo (c) Harold Blum

## Poetry by Sandy Chilcote

*I 'm always wondering if --  
if anything exists  
check back to Plato  
and illusion  
and then a squirrel will come  
and eat a peanut or two  
and a bird flies up to the feeder  
for some sunflower seeds or millet  
and I become convinced  
after a dog barks  
and after a moment or two  
that nothing can become something  
at least in the morning and on a sunny day*



“Because in the end, you  
won’t remember  
the time you spent  
working in the office  
or mowing your lawn.

Climb that goddamn  
mountain.”

—Jack Kerouac

### **Eminent Domain** *continued from page 1*

with the right to exercise eminent domain to take land in the services of public need.

“We’ve had decisions in three other counties to date involving eight separate properties,” said communications manager for Sunoco, Jeff Shields. “They said very clearly that we are a public utility with eminent domain authority and our project is something that serves the public need.”

But the property owners argue otherwise. “The only need here is for Sunoco to make a profit,” said Michael Faherty, the attorney representing the property owners.

Both parties will have to wait a little while longer to find out who is right, though. The hearing will not resume again until February 29th.

Faherty worked to build the case that, under state law, eminent domain cannot be used for private enterprise, even if there is an element of public use.

### **Can a pipeline builder take your property through eminent domain?**

If a state grants public utility status to a pipeline builder, the company has eminent domain rights. But is it really a public utility?

And since the Mariner East pipeline expansion, called Mariner East II, will be used for overseas export, that constitutes a private enterprise and no public need, he argued.

Additionally, this makes Sunoco’s Mariner

East II pipeline an interstate pipeline rather than an intrastate pipeline, and thus subject to federal regulations, which do not grant Sunoco eminent domain, he said.

But Sunoco Pipeline’s attorneys said many of these issues were already resolved not just in other counties, but in Cumberland County, as well, when Judge Edward Guido ruled in favor of the company’s ability to exercise its power of eminent domain.

Expanding the pipeline system with Mariner East II became necessary with the frigid temperatures that came with the polar vortex in the winter of 2013 and 2014, creating a greater public need for propane, vice president of business development Aaron Alexander testified Monday.

Faherty pointed out, though, that the propane will be going across Pennsylvania and into Delaware for shipment overseas.

“How does that benefit the public in Pennsylvania?” Faherty asked.

Alexander told him the public benefiting can also include the shipping companies.

And when Faherty went on to point out the contracts currently associated with the expansion do not require offloading in Pennsylvania, Alexander countered offloading locally is not required, but the contracts do allow for it.

“They allow for intrastate movements as well as interstate movements,” he said.

Alexander also said he does not agree with Faherty’s labeling Sunoco Pipeline as

private enterprise, saying the company is a public utility and their rates have been approved by the the state.

When Blume, who has owned his Upper Frankford Township property since 1965, took the stand, he said the pipeline will prevent crops from growing and will ruin several buildings on his land. And being in a “hazard zone” around the pipeline devalues his property and will make it difficult to sell, he said.

But Sunoco Pipeline’s attorney, Alan Boynton, countered that the pipeline will be underground, and property owners are still free to use the land above however they wish. Any damage will be compensated, as well, he said.

Though the hearing has been continued until the end of the month, property-owner Perry did not feel too confident about their chances of success. The judge indicated he’s still bound by his fellow judge’s ruling unless he hears something different than what has already been ruled upon.

“They keep missing the point,” Perry said. “A lot of this natural gas going through the pipeline will be shipped overseas.”

And Blume, who carries a folder full of photos of burning infernos from pipelines, is hoping the judge will prevent the pipeline from going through his land.

“The line they want to put in is 100 feet from the farmhouse,” he said. “It’s dangerous.”

# Want your kids to do well at school? Send them outside to play.

By Katherine Martinko

Living/Family via treehugger.com: February 16, 2016

The decline of free play time in favor of structured learning has resulted in never-seen-before sensory issues and emotional problems in young children.

Parents worry far too much about their preschoolers' academic performance. They sign kids up for reading enrichment activities, music lessons, dance classes, organized play dates, museum camp, and more, all in hopes of their children getting an upper hand when real school starts.

The problem, however, is that when little kids under the age of seven spend so much time doing organized activities, it takes time away from the free play that is so desperately needed for developing other areas of their brain and wellbeing.

Angela Hanscom is a writer and founder of TimberNook, a nature-based camp with unstructured programming in New England. She wrote an article for the *Washington Post* called "The decline of play in preschoolers—and the rise in sensory issues." Hanscom explains why young children so desperately need free play:

"It is before the age of seven years—ages traditionally known as 'pre-academic'—when children desperately need to have a multitude of whole-body sensory experiences on a daily basis in order to



develop strong bodies and minds. This is best done outside where the senses are fully ignited and young bodies are challenged by the uneven and unpredictable, ever-changing terrain."

When children do not have access to free play, this creates serious problems that, one could argue, make their academic performance pointless if they lack the very important social and emotional skills that should go along with it.

"If children are not given enough natural movement and play experiences, they start their academic careers with a disadvantage. They are more likely to be clumsy, have difficulty paying attention, trouble controlling their emotions, utilize poor problem-solving methods and demonstrate difficulties with social interactions. We are consistently seeing sensory, motor and cognitive issues pop up more and more in later childhood, partly because of inadequate opportunities to move and play at an early age."

Hanscom quotes one preschool teacher who

describes kids these days as being "different." They cry more often, are easily frustrated, fall out of their seats multiple times a day, walk into doors and walls. She says, "It is so strange. You never saw these issues in the past."

Much of this can be blamed on a major shift in parenting in past decades. Parents don't want to hear that their kid played in the mud all day at school; they'd rather know how Jolly Phonics went. The rise in helicopter parenting has resulted in parents pressuring teachers to follow up with kids' homework and to improve their grades. Schools have responded to this parental obsession with academics by limiting free play in the curriculum and focusing on what seems to matter most to parents.

It's so unfortunate that kids get the short end of the stick in this whole free play vs. structured learning debate. If adults simply let them do what they're naturally inclined to do—mess around in the yard, digging, climbing, chasing, jumping—then there would be less need for social skills groups, special breathing techniques, coping strategies and exercises to 'teach' young kids how to focus and sit still, not to mention the countless psychotropic medications given to American kids.

We are attempting to teach something that should come naturally, if we only allowed it to.

“  
**Children should be the  
first to benefit from mankind's  
success and the last  
to suffer from its failures,**

for it is how we bring up our children that  
our civilization is measured,  
our humanity is tested,  
our future is shaped.

”

*Jim Grant*

Executive Director, UNICEF

1980 - 1995

# Go-Back Club Members in Action



Remember what family farms used to look like? (Photos submitted by author from online sources)

## The Factory Farm Forum

By Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania

About 140 people attended The Factory Farm Forum held on January 30th at the Wilson College Science Center Auditorium in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Subtitled “concerns about industrial animal production in our communities,” the Forum heard from 12 speakers moderated by Christine Mayer, Director of the Fulton Center for Sustainable Living. The Forum was part of the school’s FRESH (Finding Responsible Eating Strategies for Health) series.

Topics presented included the impacts of CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations) on workers, animals, land, air, water and property values; community struggles against CAFOs; two different approaches to egg production; democracy and local government power; and public policies that help us “go back [bold added] to the future” of sustainable agriculture.

Alas, the family farm with animals grazing in sunlit pastures has to a large degree given way to food factories where animals spend their short lives in cramped cages tended by workers in bio-hazard garb. Massive amounts of antibiotic laden manure piles up in pits, threatening our water supplies. Air emissions from high-density livestock facilities imperil human health. There are now about 450,000 CAFOs across the U.S.

Maria Payen, spokesperson for the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, said that soon after a massive CAFO moved beside her family’s home in rural

southeastern Pennsylvania her young son began to get severe rashes all over his body. The odors were so bad that sometimes they could not engage in outdoor activities. Their quality of life was so impacted that they had to move elsewhere and their property value so degraded that they have not been able to sell their former residence. Maria now helps communities fight the devastating health, environmental and economic impacts of industrial agriculture and also provides tools and strategies for developing viable, humane alternatives.

Brent Kim, the Program Officer at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, presented slides showing significant and worrisome increases in infections from swine waste. Antibiotics given to animals in CAFOs are creating antibiotic-resistant staphylococcus and enterococcus bacteria, “superbugs” that adapt and grow when antibiotics try to kill them. Gases and particulates in the air increase respiratory problems for humans.

CAFOs are usually vertically integrated. This means that while the farmer provides labor, owns the animal facilities (usually owing debt) and is exposed to wastes, carcasses and other hazards, just a handful of companies owns the animals, controls feed inputs, and owns feed mills and processing plants. The farmer is not told what is in the feed and is responsible for a number of potential liabilities. Some term this arrangement “neo-feudalism.”

Four companies (Cargill, JBS, National Beef, Tyson) control 83% of beef production;

four control 63% of hog production (Cargill, JBS, Smithfield, Tyson) and four companies control 53% of broiler chicken production (Tyson, Purdue, JBS, Smithfield Foods). Thus just six companies control well over half of the production of the main sources of meat in the American diet.

Next in the program, two speakers talked about their struggles against CAFOs in Fulton and Franklin Counties. Marjorie Hudson-Palmer and her Big Cove Creek Alliance have been fighting the Good Fight against a corporation that has bought nearby farmland situated in an environmentally sensitive area. If the planned CAFO of 8,000 sows producing piglets (and massive amounts of manure) were to be permitted, this would threaten both surface streams and underground water quality as well as the health of the nearby residents. Bearing the burden of legal expenses, the Alliance is thus far succeeding in holding back the tide as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has issued a “stay” order stating that nothing is to be done to build the CAFO until there are further guarantees that all safety rules and regulatory standards can be met.

David and Connie Slye live in a neighborhood bordering a farmer who intends to build a chicken CAFO. They are concerned not only about air, water and quality-of-life issues that come with living near such a facility, but also about the significant drop in value of their and

**Farms** continued on next page

### Farms *continued from previous page*

their neighbor's properties should this occur. They are simply asking the farmer to move the location of the chicken CAFO to a place on his land farther removed from the neighborhood. Thus far this farmer has stubbornly refused to be a good neighbor.

The Slye's are exploring every possible angle, including the fact that there is a place of historic importance on the land, to persuade the farmer to place his CAFO in a farther-removed spot. But Pennsylvania's so-called "ACRE Law" (PA Act 38) gives the "right to farm" to landholders without regard for impacts on the surrounding community.

John Trallo and Malinda Clatterbuck, both board members of PA Community Rights Network (PCRN), addressed the issue of local democracy and governance. In association with the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, PCRN battles on the side of townships that have passed ordinances against CAFOs. They are on the frontlines of the confrontation between corporations that have lobbied for state laws in their own favor versus the environmental and human rights of real people where they live, far removed from corporate headquarters.

John and Malinda could see many similarities between the struggles of people in the communities experiencing the destruction of fracking and those under threat of CAFO damages. For readers in other countries who may not be familiar with the term "fracking," it refers to the extraction of natural gas which process uses toxic chemicals mixed into massive amounts of water, processes which pollute the air and ground water thus negatively impacting human and animal health. A related catastrophe is that of using deep wells to indefinitely dispose of the poisonous wastes of frack water. A high percentage of such wells leak in the first few years of operation.

Alanna Hartzok, co-director of Earth Rights Institute and author of *The Earth Belongs to Everyone*, talked about harnessing tax and other policy incentives to encourage sustainable agriculture. She said that several of the problems of factory farming have their origin in gross wealth and power inequality stemming from unjust and misaligned systems of land tenure, taxation and banking policy. Her view is that this situation is now a "national emergency" that is undermining democratic rule.

Citing works ascertaining how the holders of small farmers were the real inventors of democracy that the Greek philosophers later described, her slides pictured people living on small farms in Pennsylvania whose forefathers and mothers were victims of



religious persecution and land confiscation. Thus the importance of small landholdings and decentralized government took hold in Pennsylvania, which has more incorporated municipalities than any other state in the U.S.

Looking back thousands of years, societies that had fair land tenure and justice in land access were balanced and harmonic; when control of land concentrated into the hands of a few there emerged conditions of wealth inequality, poverty, conflict and war. A public finance policy approach that removes the tax burden from labor and productive capital and collects the "ground rent" based on land value (a.k.a. "land value taxation") would do much to help us build a "triple-win world" of human rights, environmental protection and a thriving economies that works for everyone. Substantially shifting taxes off of houses, wage income and production and onto ground rent would eliminate land speculation and hoarding and keep land affordable for new entry level small farms and thus could be a major stimulus for the "back to the future" revival of sustainable agriculture in Pennsylvania.

Leslie Bowman, the Operations Manager at Leshers Poultry Farm and Troy Hubers, Greencastle Plant Manager for Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs, presented two approaches to egg production in Franklin County. After hearing Bowman's presentation, one might conclude that the Leshers facility is a "best practices" example of a CAFO. As many members of this large farm family live and work there, there is a great effort made to keep the animal warehousing as clean as possible. The chickens are placed together in groups of 40 and 50 for a better social animal order and there are "pecking pads" to enable something of this natural behavior as well. The Leshers farm is thus a voluntary improvement over

what one would find in other CAFOs where the workers are hired hands and sometimes illegal immigrants paid a pittance to work in degraded conditions.

In 2003 Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs<sup>®</sup> became America's first Certified Humane<sup>®</sup> egg producer under the auspices of Humane Farm Animal Care. In 2013, they became America's first egg producer to earn the "B-Corp Certified" designation as a For-Benefit Corporation, under the auspices of B-Labs: cage-free, organic eggs produced without antibiotics, hormones, pesticides, GMOs or animal byproducts. Peter and Gerry's eggs come from over 45 independent, small family farms that raise organic, free range and Certified Humane<sup>®</sup> hens. The farms are in seven states and follow strict standards of humane animal treatment, safety and environmental sustainability.

Speakers Patti Nitterhouse and Dr. Elizabeth George told us about the Healthy Eating Adventure. The Adventure is a community-based, 28-day program of healthy eating with a whole foods, plant based diet. Programs are held three times a year at various locations throughout Franklin County although participants also come from beyond the county and sometimes participate from a distance with family and friends. The goal of the Adventure is not only to create individual health but also to "cultivate" local plant based communities. This solution to the CAFO problem is simple—just eat plants, not animals!

The Forum ended with an open microphone for participants to make comments about what they had learned.

A Resource Guide with numerous articles, videos and other material is now at <http://www.wilson.edu/factory-farm-forum-resources>. Contact Alanna at: [alanna@centurylink.net](mailto:alanna@centurylink.net).

# Coastal Leaders Urge Obama to Abandon Atlantic Drilling

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

Oceana: January 27, 2016, *excerpt*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Last night, Ted Danson, Kate Walsh and Sam Waterston joined approximately 100 coastal leaders, hailing from Delaware to Florida, in Washington, D.C. to urge President Obama to abandon his plan to open the Atlantic Ocean to industrial offshore drilling for the first time in U.S. history. Oceana's Coastal Voices Summit, which unites Atlantic leaders against offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting and celebrates more than 100 East Coast municipalities standing up to Big Oil, comes as the Obama administration prepares to release its updated proposals for these activities ...

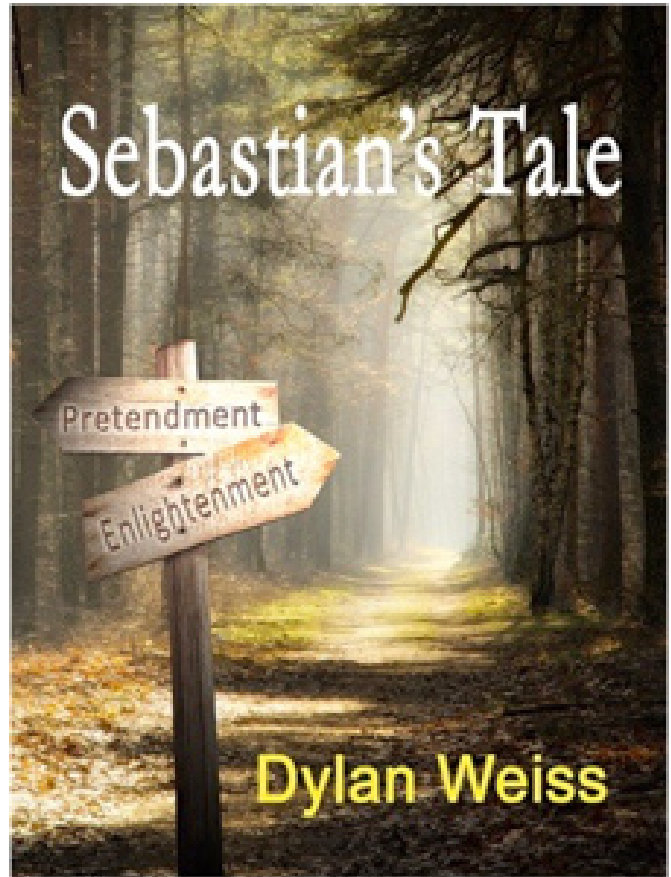
The main event, which took place Tuesday at the Jack Morton Auditorium on The George Washington University campus, was followed by a lobby day on Capitol Hill Wednesday, January 27, where Walsh and Atlantic leaders met with federal elected and appointed officials to stress the importance of protecting the East Coast from offshore drilling exploration and development. "It has only been six years since the Gulf oil spill and it seems as if our government has forgotten that it ever occurred," said Kate Walsh, actress and ocean advocate. "Everywhere we've drilled, we've spilled and it's time to stop this dirty and dangerous cycle before it starts in the Atlantic" ...

Currently, the Obama administration is considering opening a large swath of the Atlantic to offshore drilling, spanning from Virginia to Georgia. At the same time, the federal government is considering the use of seismic airguns to search for oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor in an area twice the size of California, stretching all the way from Delaware to Florida.

Coastal opposition to these activities continues to mount. As of today, 102 East Coast municipalities, 100 Members of Congress, over 660 state and local elected officials and roughly 750 business interests have all publicly opposed offshore drilling, citing threats to marine life, coastal communities and local economies. Along the Atlantic coast, nearly 1.4 million jobs and over \$95 billion in gross domestic product rely on healthy ocean ecosystems, mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation ...

Said Laura Wood Habr, co-owner of Croc's 19th Street Bistro and vice president of the Virginia Beach Restaurang Association: "Tourism is Virginia Beach's biggest economic engine—it directly supported nearly 13,000 jobs in 2014 and restaurant sales have exceeded \$1 billion for the past two years. It is short-sighted and ill-advised to put a proven, thriving industry at risk when the threats of offshore drilling far outweigh any potential jobs or economic gain. The federal government will be making a decision in the next few weeks that will influence the fate of our industry for generations to come."

**Source:** <https://usa.oceana.org/press-releases/ted-danson-kate-walsh-sam-waterston-join-coastal-leaders-washington-urge-president-0>



## GBC Member Dylan Weiss's Book Now Available at Amazon

Recently published by Gail Neustadt under the pen name of Dylan Weiss, *Sebastian's Tale* is a political allegory about the destruction of Pennsylvania from fracking as told through the experiences of woodland animals. This is a first for eighth-grade readers through adult and guarantees lively and thoughtful classroom and book club discussions as well as family conversation. Available through Amazon in paperback and for Kindle download.



# GBC Friend in Prison Seeks Pen Pal

**Note from the Editor:** This is an excerpt from my memoir. If you'd like to write to Andrew, please let me know as he's hoping to be transferred soon.

Just before shutting down my "real" newspaper in 2011, I received the saddest letter of my life from a prisoner. He had written it for publication but it arrived too late. Many prisoners had loved my newspaper and circulated it. Exactly how he discovered it remains a mystery. Remember, my background included Suburban Housewife and Newspaper Publisher; I had had no prior contact with the problems of inner city people, poverty or prisoners.

Here is his letter:

Dear Reader,

I'm 31 years old. I've been in jail for about 12 years. I came to jail when I was young, foolish and ignorant. Unfortunately, that got me a long sentence.

Jail is very depressing. There's nothing to do. Everything is monotony, habit and routine. The average person's day is spent in idleness with nothing positive or constructive to do. After being here so long, you start to feel empty and void inside. You start to feel like life don't have no meaning or significance no more. I've been in seclusion for six months. I've got three months to go. Seclusion is very unbearable and the living conditions are inhumane. The way this place is set up it's like it's designed for you to go insane. They got this one method they use against us called sensory deprivation. What they try to do is deprive you of anything that stimulates and activates the mind and senses. It's all designed for you to go insane.

The methods they use against us isn't nothing but psychological warfare at its best. These tactics have been proven to destroy, not only you, but your spirit. This is the reason why a lot of us walk around here feeling hopeless.

It's like they've destroyed and crushed our spirits. To be honest with you, jail don't care if you're blind, crippled or crazy. All they want is your body and if you're not strong



*Andrew Henbye poses with GBC Editor, Iona Conner, on one of her visits to him. Andrew had not had any visitors in 12 years when Iona started going to see him and found that he has a very sweet nature after a lot of spiritual healing work recovering from his tragic life of being raised in a ghetto. (Photo: Prison staff at Mahoney State Correectinal Prison)*

your mind will follow.

Another thing I want you to realize is that the actual pressure of isolation can take a man or woman down faster than a 350-pound line backer. This is the reason why I've lost 15 pounds. When you're in seclusion, you're in your cell 23 hours a day and most times 24 when it's cold outside. You go to the yard in something analogous to a dog cage. When you're in your cell your lights are illuminated all day and that's even when you sleep. If you try to cover them up, that gives them the justification to put you in in-cell mechanical restraints. I've actually seen people develop mental illnesses after enduring all of this.

Since I've been here everybody that meant something to me the most, including my

most loved and cherished ones, all left and disowned me. So basically I'm here doing this by myself.

Look, I know it's not your responsibility and you're not obligated to do nothing for me but I would like to ask you out of generosity and kindness if you can send me something to read.

Also, I'm asking you this out of the bottom of my heart because I've got nothing!

Truly yours,

Andrew

Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see!

(I wrote to Andrew and sent him the last *Earth News*. That started a long exchange of letters and now he even calls me "Mom.")



## Consumer Liberation

Use it up, wear it out  
Make it do or do without.

## Iona's Memoir: Becoming a Pacifist Activist 50 Years in the Environmental Movement — On the Ground, In the Field, Over the Moon

By Iona (a.k.a. Susan Wynne Norris Hnatt Topf Conner)

### First Reviews

Your book has many touching stories inside. It's not only a book, it's an inspirational body. You are absolutely unique and you have made a lot of sacrifices and I still wonder why you did them.

*E. C. C., Nigeria*

Happily, I got your book today. I started it tonight and can't put it down. I am enjoying your light-hearted writing style.

Mostly I wanted to touch base and say I totally forgot your mom had MS as my mother did and we both had more responsibility at a very early age. I was ironing my own clothes at 9 or 10. I also didn't remember that you were a member of the DAR. My mother was and I'm going to join. I've talked about it long enough and you've put it front and center. So I'm doing it!! It's such an honor, even if it ends with Jackie — if she even wants to join.

Best of luck with your book and I'm sure many will find it as interesting as I do. I finished it and thoroughly enjoyed it. I had no idea all the unique things you did as an activist and your amazing travels. Wow. I loved it and all the pictures. Thank goodness there are people like you in this world!!

*B. B., New Jersey*

Your book arrived today and I started reading it. I love the comments that Matt sent on the salute to the flag. It will be great fun to read the entire story. The photos are wonderful. I have been reading your memoir and enjoying it greatly. Only on about page 70 or so.

I loved the story about your solo novice canoe ride. Also your solo bike ride through the Pine Barrens.

Now I'm reading about your stay on a kibbutz in Israel. I just read a bit every day, kind of a slow reader but enjoy every page.

What a masterpiece — I admire your energy to put this together.

*T. M., Virginia*

I started reading your book last night and am enjoying it. Your family history



and struggle with weight gain is interesting and keeps me reading. I knew someone in school that gained a lot of weight too after her parents divorced and it became a lifelong challenge. The pictures are great! You and Joanie were so adorable and look very much alike.

*G. D.S., Vermont*

I've been enjoying your book. So many of your growing up experiences mirror mine!

*G. N., Pennsylvania*

Excellent book! Please keep up GBC! Very best,  
*S. C., Pennsylvania*

Wow Iona, it is wonderful. I started reading it and read for over an hour!

Here is one thing you said about your marriage to Bill — it really hit my heart! "All I wanted was my freedom from the environment which was suffocating me and where I felt no love from my husband." Wow that surely described my feeling exactly from my marriage! You just got there before me!

Anyway your book is so good I could hardly put it down! And Iona — you are beautiful! The pictures of you in the book — such a beauty in those pictures and you

didn't look at all FAT !!!!!!!

I really liked the story of canoeing down the river!!! And the ocean — you had a wonderful out-of-body experience there with being one with the ocean. I can so relate to this all. It is so neat to see pictures and put the people you speak of with faces! Joanie for one. And Cece. I even got up this morning and read a few more pages before work! I am a slow reader.

I am really enjoying your book — I only had a little time for reading last night. I have to say — wow Iona, you have had such an interesting and fun-filled life!!!! I like how you always went on those adventures by yourself — oh my gosh that bike trip through the Pine forest, no Pine Barrens — anyway how interesting and along the way you met many friends. You look so happy at your little apartment making pancakes! The picture of you and John getting married — you look so extremely happy — although I haven't read that part yet.

*L. L., Idaho*

I finished the book today: what a Labor of Love! I really enjoyed it.

Now, without any slight whatsoever, because it was a great gift, may I return it so you can share it with someone else — and save the trees we both love?

I did enjoy *How on Earth*. It was a page-turner. I learned a lot about my friend.

*C. B., Pennsylvania*

Hey outdoors girl, I love your book especially page 176 of you in your perfectly gorgeous retreat with view of nature.

Don't find much spare time but have it by my desk; every chance I've a few minutes, I'll grab it and enjoy some great stories.

*S. C., Maryland*



### PDF Version Available for \$10

203 pages, 56 color images. I will email you the PDF for \$10. Please make check payable to The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks!

I'm also looking for a "real" publisher. If you have any ideas on that, please let me know at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net). Thank you.

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See reviews and ordering information on page 18. Pdf version available for \$10. Please make check or money order to The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks very much.



Remember your dreams.

## Letters and Emails from our Members



**Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,**

I just came back from Japan. We went to Kyushu, a southern island of Japan. We visited old towns and enjoyed the old Japanese culture and tradition. Of course we visited a hot spring. There are many hot springs in Kyushu. And Mt. Aso is still an active volcano. There are natural sulphur farms, too. Sulphur is coming from the underground and the sulphur farm owners harvest the natural sulphur which is the raw material for many products including medicine.

Oh! I talked to Dr. Byun and he said that you may come to Korea on April 10th and you may stay at the guest house of the University for five to six days for interviewing Dr. Byun and visiting his home town [to write his biography].

It is very cold here at Daegu. The polar vortex came down here and it is freezing.  
**Pyong Roh, brother in the Universe, Korea**

**Hi,**

We must fight for our minds. I could not have graduated college and post graduate school with the current level of distractibility I now experience.

I find I have no trouble understanding and recalling what I read. I generally scored high on standardized tests. But I struggle to keep focus on reading. I've seen it get worse

because of the Internet.

Nothing will happen unless we make a fuss about it. We have to declare a Low-Tech Day and dedicate it to preserving threatened cognitive and social skills. Then we have to seek media attention.

See these articles:

<http://realtruth.org/articles/090105-006-science.html>

[http://digitaledition.orlandosentinel.com/tribune/article\\_popover.aspx?guid=6098db74-db27-4c26-b7b3-345de1390aa2](http://digitaledition.orlandosentinel.com/tribune/article_popover.aspx?guid=6098db74-db27-4c26-b7b3-345de1390aa2)

**Bill Boteler**, Washington, D.C.

**Iona,**

What a beautiful and informative newsletter. We certainly do live in interesting times.

And so sorry to hear about the harassment about that one photo.

I can continue to send you more of those graphics as I create them, if you are interested. (see page 11)

**Mare Cromwell, Maryland**

**Hello Iona,**

Congratulations on another wonderful "Go Back Club" publication. I can't think of anything you have left out of this edition.!

I read in one of your fan-mail letters you lived on a Kibbutz. I also did in 1977 on

Kibbutz Hazerim in the Negev Desert near the city of Be'erSheva. Wondering when and where you were on a Kibbutz.

Thanks for the information and inspiration. You sure have a lot of energy!

Blessings and continued success,

**Briget Shields**, Pennsylvania

**Outreach/Shalefield Stories-Marcellus Protest. Please visit our website <http://www.shalefieldstories.org> to see what Friends of the Harmed is doing.**

**Hi, Iona.**

Looks like a lot of interesting articles in here. Hopefully just one email a month, though, because I already get so many.

Thanks.

**Erik Olaf** (see "Butterfly" on page 6)

**Hello Iona,**

All's well on the farm. Still working on creation of quail habitat; it's the damn invasive's that are killing me. It's my never-ending career pulling and spot-spraying bitter Sweet, Canada thistle, mile-a-minute vine and invasive wavy-leaf basketgrass.

But then again, as I look out in the snow, there are two dozen Robbins eating berries on the Hawthorne trees in front of your old farmhouse. This is absolutely the best time of life so enjoy!

**S. C., Maryland**

**Creatures** continued from page 9



to breed. They feed by diving up to 100 feet below the surface and "flying" underwater. Because they forage from the ocean surface, they are particularly susceptible to oil spills that coat the water—and could coat their wings.

**Walrus:** Each spring, massive numbers of walrus migrate north through the Bering Strait to the Chukchi Sea where females raise their young. These distinctive-looking mammals use their tusks to haul themselves out of the water, poke holes through the ice and defend their territory. Unfortunately, melting sea ice has restricted breeding areas and increased the distance walrus have to travel to find organisms like clams and mussels for food.

Warming ocean temperatures and melting sea ice are changing the Bering Strait. And growing vessel traffic increases risks—including the risk of a major oil spill that could have catastrophic impacts on the marine mammals, birds and fish of the Bering Strait.

It's time to take action. Will you take a stand to protect the animals of the Bering Strait? Please donate at [https://secure.oceanconservancy.org/site/Donation2.jsessionid=133449C03A473E93129670673017FD51.app217a?df\\_id=6880&6880.donation=form1&mfc\\_pref=T&s\\_src=16WAXAEXXX&s\\_subsrc=16FEPBS01B](https://secure.oceanconservancy.org/site/Donation2.jsessionid=133449C03A473E93129670673017FD51.app217a?df_id=6880&6880.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&s_src=16WAXAEXXX&s_subsrc=16FEPBS01B). Thank you.